

distinguish one type of product from another.

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### Subparts B–C [Reserved]

## PART 75—REGULATIONS FOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF QUALITY OF AGRICULTURAL AND VEGETABLE SEEDS

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SOURCE: 49 FR 18724, May 2, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

### DEFINITIONS

#### § 75.1 Meaning of words.

Words used in the regulations in this part in the singular form shall be deemed to import the plural and vice versa, as the case may demand.

#### § 75.2 Terms defined.

For the purpose of these regulations unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall be construed, respectively, as follows:

(a) *Act* means the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*).

(b) *Regulations* means the regulations in this part.

(c) *Department* means the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

(d) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated to act in the Secretary's stead.

(e) *Administrator* means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department, or any other officer or employee of AMS to whom authority has been delegated to act in the Administrator's stead.

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(f) *Division* means the Warehouse and Seed Division (WSD), AMS.

(g) *Director* means the Director of the Division or any other officer or employee of the Division to whom authority has been delegated to act in the Director's stead.

(h) *Person* means any individual, partnership, association, business trust, corporation, entity, or any other organized group of persons, whether incorporated or not.

(i) *Seed* means any agricultural or vegetable seed.

(j) *Interested Party* means any person financially interested in a transaction involving seed.

(k) *Applicant* means an interested party who requests any inspection service with respect to seed.

(l) *Authorized agent* means an agent to whom authority to represent a person or government agency has been given by that person or government agency through delegation, contract or cooperative agreement, or other means.

(m) *Memorandum of Understanding* means a written plan between AMS and a State for carrying out their separate activities in a project of mutual interest to the parties involved.

(n) *Inspector* means a licensed employee of a State authorized pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding or an employee of the Department authorized by the Director, to draw samples of seeds, seal containers, inspect records, test seeds for quality, issue certificates and reports, and bill for services.

(o) *Inspection* means sampling seeds, sealing containers, testing seeds for quality and reviewing records.

(p) *Appeal inspector* means an inspector or other person designated or authorized by the Division to perform appeal inspections under the Act and regulations in this subpart.

(q) *Certificate* means a certificate issued under the Act and the regulations in this subpart.

### ADMINISTRATION

#### § 75.3 Authority.

The Director is charged with the administration of the provisions of the regulations and the Act insofar as they

relate to the subject matter of the regulations, under the supervision of the Secretary and the Administrator.

#### § 75.4 Federal and State cooperation.

Pursuant to the Act, the Administrator is authorized to cooperate with the appropriate State agencies in carrying out provisions of the Act and these regulations through Memoranda of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding shall specify the duties to be performed by the parties concerned with each party directing its own activities and utilizing its own resources.

#### § 75.5 Regulations not applicable for certain purposes.

The regulations do not apply to the inspection of grain in the United States under the U.S. Grain Standards Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*), except to the extent that official grain samples received from the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) shall be examined for the presence of specified weed and crop seeds upon the request of FGIS.

#### § 75.6 Nondiscrimination.

The conduct of all services under these regulations shall be accomplished without discrimination as to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

### INSPECTION

#### § 75.7 Inspection in accordance with methods prescribed or approved.

Inspection of seed shall be rendered pursuant to these regulations and under such conditions and in accordance with the methods of either the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) or the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA).

#### § 75.8 Basis of service.

The regulations provide for inspection services pursuant to the Act. Seeds shall be inspected in accordance with the methods of either the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) or the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA); provided, that limitations in these rules respecting maximum lot size will not be observed and,

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provided further, that certification as to origin may be based on examination of records and certification of other seed certifying agencies.

### **§ 75.9 Who may obtain service.**

An application for inspection service may be made by any interested party or his authorized agent.

### **§ 75.10 How to make application.**

An application for service shall be confirmed in writing and addressed to the Federal Seed Laboratory, WSD, AMS, USDA, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

### **§ 75.11 Content of application.**

An application for service shall include the following information; (a) The date of application; (b) the kind and quantity of seed, and test(s) to be performed; (c) the methods and instructions for the inspection of the seed (either Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) or International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) rules); (d) the name and address of the applicant and, if made by an authorized agent; and (e) such further information relating to the inspection as may be required.

### **§ 75.12 When application deemed filed.**

An application shall be deemed filed when received by the Division or the Federal Seed Laboratory.

### **§ 75.13 When application may be rejected.**

Any application for service may be rejected by the Director (a) for non-compliance with the Act or the regulations relating to applications for service in this subpart, or (b) when it is not practicable to provide the service. Each such applicant shall be promptly notified in writing.

### **§ 75.14 When application may be withdrawn.**

An application may be withdrawn at any time before the requested service is rendered. The applicant will remain responsible for payment of expenses incurred in connection therewith as provided in § 75.44.

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### **§ 75.15 Authority of agent.**

Proof of authority of any person making an application as an agent may be required in the discretion of the official receiving the application.

### **§ 75.16 Accessibility of seeds.**

Each lot of seed for which a lot inspection is requested shall be placed by the applicant so as to permit the entire lot to be sampled and a representative sample to be obtained as required.

### **§ 75.17 Testing.**

Upon request by the applicant, tests may be made for kind, variety, germination, purity, weed seeds, disease pathogens, treatment, moisture, and other special tests, or any combination thereof for which prescribed methods of testing are established. The tests shall be in accordance with the methods of either the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) or the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) as requested by the applicant.

### **§ 75.18 Sampling.**

Sampling, when requested by the applicant, shall be in accordance with the methods of either the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) or the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), depending upon the test method requested by the applicant.

### **§ 75.19 Seed lot inspection.**

A lot inspection shall be made by obtaining a representative sample from a specified quantity of seed identified with a distinguishing mark or number to appear on all containers in the lot, and performing such test(s) as may be requested by the applicant. The identification mark or number must be approved by the inspector and will appear on the certificate to be issued.

### **§ 75.20 Submitted sample inspection.**

A sample inspection shall be made by testing a sample of seed submitted by an applicant for inspection.

### **§ 75.21 Grain sample inspection.**

A sample inspection shall be performed by examining official grain samples received from FGIS to identify

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specified weed and crop seeds upon the request of FGIS.

### § 75.22 Form of inspection certificate.

Inspection certificates shall be approved by the Director as to their form. No correction, erasure, or other change shall be made in the information on a certificate.

### § 75.23 Issuance of inspection certificate.

After an inspection has been completed, an inspection certificate shall be issued showing the results of the inspection in accordance with paragraph (a) or (b) of this section.

(a) *Lot inspection certificate.* A lot inspection certificate shall be issued to include the name of the inspector sampling and sealing the seed lot, the analysis results from testing the sample, the identifying mark or number which has been approved by the inspector to appear on each container in the seed lot, and any other factual information pertinent to the inspection.

(b) *Sample inspection certificate.* A sample inspection certificate shall be issued to show the results of the inspection of a sample of seed or grain submitted by an interested party. Each sample inspection certificate shall state the results of the inspection that applies only to the sample described in the certificate.

(c) *General authorization to issue certificates.* Certificates for inspections may be issued by any inspector authorized by the Director to perform the inspection covered by the certificate.

(d) *Name requirements.* The name and signature of the person who issued the inspection certificate shall be shown on the certificate. The original certificate must be signed, and the signature or a stamped facsimile shall be shown on each copy.

### § 75.24 Disposition of inspection certificate.

Upon issuance, the original and one copy of each inspection certificate shall be delivered or mailed to the applicant or otherwise delivered or mailed in accordance with the applicant's instructions. One copy of each inspection certificate shall be filed in

the Federal Seed Laboratory. In case of a lost or destroyed certificate, a duplicate thereof labeled as such may be issued under the same number, date, and name.

### § 75.25 Issuance of corrected certificate.

(a) If any error is made in an inspection, a corrected inspection certificate may be issued.

(b) The original and copies of the corrected certificate shall be issued as promptly as possible to the same interested persons who received the incorrect certificate.

(c) The corrected certificate shall supersede the incorrect inspection certificate previously issued. The corrected certificate shall clearly identify, by certificate number and date, the incorrect certificate which it supersedes.

(d) The original and all copies of the superseded incorrect certificate shall be obtained by the Director, if possible. If it is not possible to obtain the original and all copies of the superseded certificate, to the extent possible, all parties involved will be notified to prevent misuse of the superseded certificate and the corrected certificate so marked as to the outstanding certificate.

## APPEAL INSPECTION

### § 75.26 When appeal inspection may be requested.

A request for an appeal inspection may be made by any interested party regarding the results of an inspection as stated on an inspection certificate. Such request shall be made within thirty (30) days following the day on which an inspection certificate was issued.

### § 75.27 How to file an appeal.

Any request for an appeal inspection may be made orally or in writing to the Federal Seed Laboratory. If made orally, written confirmation is required. The applicant shall clearly state the reasons for requesting the appeal service. The original and all available copies of the certificate shall be returned to the appeal inspector assigned to make the appeal inspection.

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### **§ 75.28 When a request for an appeal inspection may be withdrawn**

A request for an appeal inspection may be withdrawn by the applicant at any time before the appeal inspection is performed: *Provided*, that, the appellant shall pay any expenses incurred in connection with the appeal as provided in § 75.46.

### **§ 75.29 When an appeal may be refused.**

A request for an appeal inspection may be refused if:

(a) The reasons for an appeal inspection are frivolous or not substantial;

(b) The quality or condition of the seed has been altered since the inspection covering the seed on which the appeal inspection is requested;

(c) The lot in question in a lot inspection is not or cannot be made accessible for sampling;

(d) The lot relative to which appeal inspection is requested cannot be positively identified by the inspection as the lot from which drawn samples were previously inspected in a lot inspection; or

(e) The application is not in compliance with the regulations; and

(f) Such applicant shall be notified promptly of the reason for such refusal.

### **§ 75.30 Who shall perform appeal inspection.**

An appeal inspection shall be performed by an inspector (other than the one from whose inspection the appeal is requested) authorized for this purpose by the Director.

### **§ 75.31 Appeal inspection certificate.**

After an appeal inspection has been completed, an appeal inspection certificate shall be issued showing the results of such appeal inspection; and such certificate shall supersede the inspection certificate previously issued for the seed involved. Each appeal inspection certificate shall clearly identify the number and date of the inspection certificate which it supersedes. The superseded certificate shall become null and void upon the issuance of the appeal inspection certificate and shall no longer represent the quality or condition of the seed described therein. The inspector issuing an appeal inspection certifi-

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cate shall forward notice of such issuance to such persons as considered necessary to prevent misuse of the superseded certificate if the original and all copies of such superseded certificate have not previously been delivered to the inspector issuing the appeal inspection certificate. The appeal inspection certificate shall be marked as to the existence of the outstanding certificate. The provisions in the regulations concerning forms of certificates and disposition of certificates shall apply to appeal inspection certificates, except that copies of such appeal inspection certificates shall be furnished to all interested parties who received copies of the superseded certificate.

### **LICENSING OF INSPECTORS**

### **§ 75.32 Who may become licensed inspector.**

Any person nominated by a cooperating State and who is found to have the necessary qualifications may be licensed by the Director as an inspector to perform such duties of inspection as specified by the Memorandum of Understanding. Such a license shall bear the signature of an authorized employee of the Department. A licensed inspector shall perform duties pursuant to the regulations in accordance with instructions issued or approved by the Director.

### **§ 75.33 Suspension or revocation of license of inspector.**

Pending final action by the Administrator, the Director may suspend, whenever it is deemed that such action is necessary to assure that any service provided is performed properly, the license of any inspector, issued pursuant to the regulations by giving notice of such suspension to the respective licensee, accompanied by a statement of the reasons therefore. Within 7 days after receipt of notice and statement of reasons by a licensee, an appeal may be filed in writing with the Administrator supported by any argument or evidence as to why the license should not be suspended. After expiration of the 7-day period and consideration of such argument and evidence, the Administrator

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shall take such action as deemed appropriate with respect to a suspension or revocation.

### **§ 75.34 Surrender of license.**

Upon termination of service as an inspector or suspension or revocation of such license, such licensee shall surrender the license immediately to the Federal Seed Laboratory.

#### **SAMPLING PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **§ 75.35 Obtaining samples for lot inspections.**

Samples of seed for lot inspections may be obtained by licensed inspectors or authorized employees of the Department.

### **§ 75.36 Representative sample.**

No lot inspection sample shall be deemed representative of a lot of seed unless the sample (a) has been obtained by a licensed inspector or an authorized employee of the Department; (b) is of the size prescribed in the instructions; and (c) has been obtained, handled, and submitted in accordance with the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) or the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) procedures.

### **§ 75.37 Submitted samples.**

Submitted samples may be obtained by or for any interested person. (Instructions for sampling seed may be obtained upon request to the Director or the Federal Seed Laboratory.)

### **§ 75.38 Lot inspections.**

Each lot inspection shall be made on the basis of a representative sample obtained from that lot of seed by a licensed inspector or an authorized employee of the Department. Each lot of seed which is offered for lot inspection shall be sealed at the time of sampling in accordance with methods and procedures of the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) or the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA).

### **§ 75.39 Use of file samples.**

(a) File samples which are retained by inspection personnel in accordance with the regulations may be deemed

representative for appeal inspections: Provided, that (1) the samples have remained in the custody of the inspection personnel who certificated the inspection; and (2) the inspection personnel who performed the inspection and the inspection personnel who are to perform the appeal inspection determine that the sample was representative of the seed at the time of the inspection and that the quality or condition of the seed in the sample and in the lot has not changed since the time of the inspection.

(b) Upon request of the applicant, and if practicable, a new sample may be obtained and examined as a part of an appeal inspection.

### **§ 75.40 Protecting samples.**

Inspection personnel shall protect each sample from manipulation, substitution, and improper or careless handling which would deprive the sample of its representative character from the time of collection until the inspection is completed and the file sample has been discarded.

#### **FEES AND CHARGES**

### **§ 75.41 General.**

Fees and charges for inspection services performed by Federal employees shall cover the cost of performing the service. Fees shall be for actual time required to render the service, calculated to the nearest 15-minute period except that a minimum of 1 hour shall apply for testing and a 2-hour minimum shall apply for sampling and sealing. Fees and charges shall be at the rate of \$44.40 per hour. (Cost estimates may be obtained upon request to the Director or the Federal Seed Laboratory.)

[49 FR 18724, May 2, 1984, as amended at 56 FR 51320, Oct. 11, 1991; 58 FR 64101, Dec. 6, 1993; 60 FR 21035, May 1, 1995; 65 FR 15832, Mar. 24, 2000]

### **§ 75.42 Sampling and sealing.**

(a) Fees for inspection services provided by licensed inspectors may be charged by States participating in the program at rates established by the individual States.

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(b) When onsite inspection services are performed by Federal employees at the request of the applicant:

(1) Fees for onsite inspections for sampling and sealing shall include the time for actual sampling and sealing, standby at the service site, travel time and actual travel costs to and from the site, and a per diem charge if the employee performing the service is paid per diem in accordance with existing travel regulations as appear in Agricultural Travel Regulations, including the Federal Travel Regulations, DM 2300-1.

(2) Hourly rates shall begin when the inspector begins travel to the service site and end when the inspector arrives back at his official station or residence, computed to the nearest quarter hour, less meal time, if any.

(3) A 2-hour minimum shall be charged for each onsite inspection.

#### **§ 75.43 Laboratory testing.**

Fees for testing each sample shall include the time required for actual testing, preparation of test records, issuing the certificate, and filing of samples and documents, with:

(a) Charges billed at the hourly rate in increments of 15 minutes.

(b) A minimum fee of 1 hour per sample for testing shall be charged.

#### **§ 75.44 When application rejected or withdrawn.**

When an application for inspection is rejected in accordance with § 75.13 or withdrawn in accordance with § 75.14, the applicant will be required to pay applicable fees for the time used by an inspector and other expenses incurred in connection with such application prior to its rejection or withdrawal.

#### **§ 75.45 Charge for appeals.**

A charge of 1 hour shall be made for each appeal filed under § 75.26, and the fee for an appeal inspection shall equal the fee for the original inspection from which the appeal is taken, plus any charges for travel or other expenses incurred in performing the appeal: *Pro-*

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*vided*, That when a material error in the certificate or sample from which the appeal is taken is found by the appeal inspector the charge and fee shall be waived.

#### **§ 75.46 When appeal refused or withdrawn.**

When an appeal is refused in accordance with § 75.29 or withdrawn in accordance with § 75.28, the applicant will be required to pay for the time used by the appeal inspector and other expenses incurred in connection with such appeal prior to its denial, dismissal, or withdrawal.

#### **§ 75.47 For certificates.**

A charge of \$11.10 per certificate will be made for copies of certificates other than those required to be distributed in § 75.23 and for the issuance of a duplicate certificate in accordance with § 75.24 and an appeal certificate in § 75.31.

[49 FR 18724, May 2, 1984, as amended at 56 FR 51320, Oct. 11, 1991; 58 FR 64101, Dec. 6, 1993; 60 FR 21035, May 1, 1995; 65 FR 15832, Mar. 24, 2000]

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **§ 75.48 Identification number.**

The Director may require the use of official identification numbers in connection with seed certificated or sampled under the Act. When identification numbers are required, they shall be specified by the Director and shall be attached to, or stamped, printed, or stenciled on the lot of seed certificated or sampled in a manner specified by the Director.

#### **§ 75.49 OMB control numbers.**

The control number assigned to the information collection requirements by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 is as follows: OMB Control No. 0581-0140.

[56 FR 51320, Oct. 11, 1991]